

Message Text

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11
ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 H-02 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 PM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 IGA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10

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R 200244Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3550
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
VOA GUAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6827

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, RP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF STAFFDEL PARKER, MAY 13-17

REF: MANILA 6690

1. MRS. DOROTHY PARKER, MINORITY COUNSEL SENATE
JUDICIARY SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND ESCAPEES,
VISITED MANILA MAY 13-17 ACCOMPANIED BY HUSBAND,
BENJAMIN PARKER. PRIMARY INTEREST WAS TO GATHER INFOR-
MATION ON REFUGEE HANDLING/PROCESSING ON BEHALF SENATOR
HIRAM FONG, SENIOR MINORITY MEMBER REFUGEE SUB-
COMMITTEE. MRS. PARKER STATED INTENTION TO "BALANCE
NEGATIVE REPORTING" OF COMMITTEE COLLEAGUE MAJORITY
COUNSEL DALE DEHAAN, WHO VISITED MANILA AND OTHER
CAMPS EARLIER IN MONTH IN ORDER THAT COMMITTEE NOT
LEFT WITH IMPRESSION OF MECHANICAL/MILITARY/IMPERSONAL
TREATMENT OF REFUGEES. SECONDARY PURPOSE OF VISIT
WAS TO GAIN IMPRESSION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED
OR ANTICIPATED BY MISSION OFFICIALS AND REFUGEES THEMSELVES.
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2. SUBIC BAY VISIT: MRS. PARKER SPENT MAY 15 AT GRANDE ISLAND REFUGEE FACILITY, SUBIC NAVAL BASE. DURING VISIT, SHE HELD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BASE COMMANDER, REAR ADMIRAL DONIPHAN SHELTON, HIS STAFF AND MEMBERS OF USAID AND EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTIONS WORKING AT GRANDE. SHE PRO- NOUNCED HERSELF "TOTALLY SATISFIED AND EXTREMELY IMPRES- SED" WITH GRANDE ISLAND OPERATION AND IS DESIROUS OF PUBLICIZING IMPORTANT ROLE BASE AND MISSION VOLUNTEERS PLAYED IN CARE AND HANDLING OF REFUGEES. IN TALKS WITH REFUGEES, THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN RE TIMING OF MOVEMENT TO GUAM, RECEPTION THEY COULD EXPECT FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC, AND EDUCATION POSSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN. SUBIC OFFICIALS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROP- RIATION WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT REFUGEE POPULATION, AND UNDERScoreD DIFFICULTIES ABSENCE PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR VIETNAMESE PRESENTED.

3. PRESS CONFERENCE: AFTER SUBIC VISIT AND EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, CONSULAR SECTION, USAID, OTHER EMBASSY MEMBERS AND CATHOLIC RELIEF DIRECTOR, MRS. PARKER MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AP AND UPI TO BRIEF THEM ON IMPRESSIONS TO DATE. HER REACTIONS TO HONG KONG AND SUBIC REFUGEE FACILITIES AND PROCESSING ARRANGE- MENTS EXTREMELY POSITIVE. HOWEVER, SHE EXPRESSED CON- siderable CONCERN WITH SITUATION IN THAILAND, PARTICULARLY WITH POSSIBILITY THAT REFUGEES ALREADY THERE MIGHT BE SENT OFF ILL-PREPARED TO ANOTHER LOCATION (SEE REFTEL NOTAL). PRESS REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY KATE WEBB, UPI, QUESTIONED HER CLOSELY ON RATIONALE BEHIND "ABANDONING" REFUGEES WHO EXITED BY OTHER THAN US MEANS. MRS. PARKER EXPLAINED CAREFULLY US POSITION THAT THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAD ELECTED TO PLACE THEMSELVES UNDER CONTROL OF COUNTRY OTHER THAN US AND, THUS, WERE OUTSIDE AMERICAN JURISDICTION. MRS. PARKER WAS ALSO PRESSED HARD ON REASON FOR LOG JAM IN GUAM AND SUBIC. SHE EXPLAINED MONEY DIFFICULTIES AND SAID THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION SHOULD START FLOW MOVING AGAIN IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. MRS. PARKER DEPARTED MANILA FOR TAIPEI 0845 MAY 17.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE MRS. PARKER HAS TAKEN AWAY WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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HER VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF HANDLING OF REFUGEE PROBLEM THAT SHE WILL CONVEY TO SENATOR HIRAM FONG THROUGH ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORT AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF HER WITH REFUGEES. BECAUSE OF HER EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN REFUGEES DATING BACK TO EARLY DAYS OF WORLD WAR II, SHE DOES HAVE DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES INVOLVED. WE BELIEVE SHE WILL BE HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT IN GETTING REFUGEE STORY TOLD.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA06827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-0649
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabgfa.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 6690
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF STAFFDEL PARKER, MAY 13-17
TAGS: SREF, RP, US, (PARKER, DOROTHY), (PARKER, BENJAMIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006